

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A post system for a railing, the post system comprising:

a railing post having first and second ends; and

a post base connectable to said first end of said railing post, said post base comprising an inner structural member and an outer surface member, said inner member being substantially embedded within said outer member, said inner member comprising steel a ~~first material~~ and said outer member comprising aluminum a ~~second material~~.

Claims 2-3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (original) The post system of claim 1 further comprising fasteners for connecting said post base to said railing post.

Claim 5 (original) The post system of claim 4 wherein said fasteners comprise a dimension of Ø8x80 mm.

Claim 6 (currently amended) A post system for a railing, the post system comprising:

a railing post comprising an elongated tubular body and first and second ends, said railing post comprising aluminum; and

a structurally reinforcing an insert snugly insertable within said first end of said railing post, said insert comprising steel.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The post system of claim 6 further comprising a post base connectable to said

first end of said railing post, said post base comprising an inner structural member and an outer surface member, said inner member being substantially embedded within said outer member, said inner member comprising steel and said outer member comprising aluminum.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The post system of claim 7 6 wherein said insert further comprises an engagement member.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The post system of claim 8 6 further comprising fasteners for connecting said post base to said railing post.

Claim 10 (original) The post system of claim 9 wherein said fasteners comprise a dimension of Ø8x80 mm.

Claim 11 (currently amended) A post system for a railing, the post system comprising:

a railing post having first and second ends; and

a post base connectable to said first end of said railing post, said post base comprising:

a steel base member; and

an aluminum housing member connected to and extending from said base member, said housing member adapted to engage said railing post.

Claim 12 (currently amended) A post system for a railing, the post system comprising:

a railing post comprising an elongated tubular body and first and second ends;

an insert snugly insertable within said first end of said railing post;

a post base connectable to said first end of said railing post, said post base comprising a base member and a housing member connected to and extending from said base member, said housing member adapted to snugly engage said railing post; and

wherein said base member ~~comprising~~ comprises an inner structural member and an outer surface member, said inner structural member being substantially embedded within said outer surface member, said inner structural member comprising steel ~~a first material~~ and said outer surface member comprising aluminum ~~a second material~~.

Claim 13 (original) The post system of claim 12 wherein said insert further comprises an engagement member.

Claims 14-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (original) The post system of claim 12 further comprising fasteners for connecting said post base to said railing post.

Claim 17 (original) The post system of claim 16 wherein said fasteners comprise a dimension of Ø8x80 mm.

Claim 18 (new) The post system of claim 6 further comprising a structurally reinforcing insert snugly insertable within said first end of said railing post.

Claim 19 (new) The post system of claim 18, said structurally reinforcing insert comprising steel.

Claim 20 (new) The post system of claim 19, said structurally reinforcing insert comprising an engagement member for receiving said fasteners.

Claim 21 (new) The post system of claim 20, said post base further comprising horizontal flat surfaces on four top corners, said horizontal flat surfaces each comprising a bore therethrough for receiving a deck fastener capable of securing the post base to a deck surface.

Claim 22 (new) The post system of claim 21, said post base further comprising an outer wall top surface that is sloped to distribute water away from said railing post, said outer wall top surface adjacent to said horizontal flat surfaces on said four top corners.

Claim 23 (new) The post system of claim 22, comprising four bores for engagingly receiving said fasteners, each of said bores passing through said post base, said railing post and said insert, said fasteners being securable through said bores, said fasteners being engageable to said post base, said railing post and said insert at the same time.

Claim 24 (new) The post system of claim 23, said railing post having a rectangular cross-section defining four inner corners, said corners comprising engaging channels, said bores passing through said engaging channels in said corners.